

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the present application. It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 3-10, 12, 16-20 and 24-30 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 11, 13-15 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent 6,694,570).

Regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1, 15 and 21 under §102(e), the Examiner states that Chen discloses all of the features of the claims. Chen discloses a hinge device for a foldable electronic apparatus.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a first hinge housing coupled to the terminal body to rotate about the first rotation axis, the first hinge housing being formed with a fixing portion at its inner peripheral surface, and an opening adapted to expose the fixing portion in a direction of the second rotation axis; Claim 15 recites, among other features, a first hinge housing, which is rotatable about a first rotation axis longitudinally extending through both ends thereof, the first hinge housing being formed at its inner peripheral surface with a fixing surface, and at its outer peripheral surface with an opening adapted to expose the fixing surface perpendicular to the first rotation axis; and Claim 21 recites, among other features, a first hinge housing coupled to the terminal body to rotate about the first rotation axis, the first hinge housing being formed with a fixing groove surrounded by ribs extended to a certain height at its inner peripheral surface, and an opening adapted to expose the fixing groove in a direction of the second rotation axis.

Each of the first hinge housings recited in Claims 1, 15 and 21 have a fixing portion, a fixing surface or a fixing groove, respectively. In addition, each of Claims 1, 15 and 21 recites an opening adapted to expose the fixing portion in a direction of the second rotation axis, an opening adapted to expose the fixing surface perpendicular to the first rotation axis, or an opening adapted to expose the fixing groove in a direction of the second rotation axis, respectively.

The Examiner states that Chen anticipates these features of Claims 1, 15 and 21, and cites FIG. 5, elements 3, 342 and “U-shaped cut out” as disclosing these features. The Examiner does not actually cite any element of Chen that discloses an opening adapted to expose the fixing feature either in a direction of the second rotation axis or perpendicular to the first rotation axis. Chen does not disclose an opening adapted to expose the fixing feature either in a direction of the second rotation axis or perpendicular to the first rotation axis.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. M.P.E.P. §2131. Since Chen does not disclose a first hinge housing having an opening adapted to expose the fixing feature either in a direction of the second rotation axis or perpendicular to the first rotation axis, Chen cannot anticipate the claims of the present application.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of independent Claims 1, 15 and 21 under §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 15 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-14, 16-20 and 22-30, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-14, 16-20 and 22-30 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-30, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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